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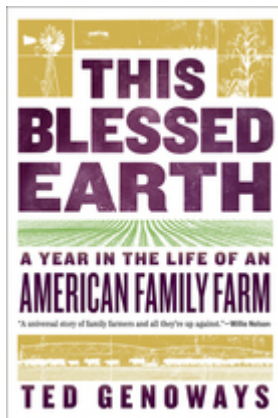
Monday Morning Eye-Opener October 29, 2018

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN! Today October 29, 2018

All Iowa Reads Adult Title 2019



[This Blessed Earth](#)

This announcement just this morning from the **Iowa Center for the Book**: the **2019 All Iowa Reads** title is [This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Farm Family](#) by Ted Genoways.

*"This title is an excellent choice for **All Iowa Reads** and will resonate with many people in our state," said State Librarian Michael Scott. "I encourage Iowans to join me next year in picking up this outstanding book and connecting with others to talk about the book and its*

themes."

2019 marks the first year that Iowa's chosen title is a joint selection with Nebraska's statewide reading program "*One Book, One Nebraska*." This because the Iowa Library Association and the Nebraska Library Association will hold a join conference next October in La Vista (NE) just outside of Omaha.

About the book: *"For forty years, Rick Hammond has raised cattle and crops on his wife's fifth-generation farm. But as he prepares to hand off the operation to his daughter Meghan and her husband Kyle, their entire way of life is under siege. Confronted by rising corporate ownership, encroaching pipelines, groundwater depletion, climate change, and shifting trade policies, small*

farmers are often caught in the middle and fighting just to preserve their way of life. Following the Hammonds from harvest to harvest, This Blessed Earth is both a history of American agriculture and a portrait of one family's struggle to hold on to their legacy."

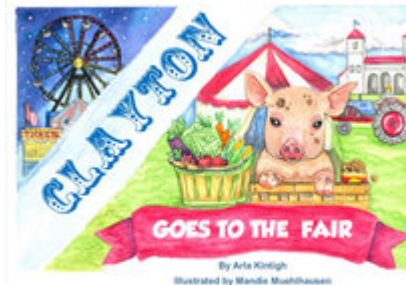
A webinar with author Ted Genoways is tentatively scheduled for the end of January. Watch the CE Catalog and LibraryTalk for more information once the date is finalized. Find resources for book discussions, a listing of Iowa authors, and more about the **All Iowa Reads** project at the **Iowa Center for the Book** website

Iowa Center for the Book

Spencer PL Director Illustrates Children's Book

Clayton Goes to the Fair

Iowa author Arla Kintigh has written a children's book Clayton Goes to the Fair and Spencer Library Director Mandie Muehlhausen is the illustrious illustrator! The two met at the Art Barn at the Clay County Fair last year, where Mandie was demonstrating watercolor painting. Arla was in a neighboring booth selling her previous book Fairgoers Do Not Live On Fried Food Alone. They began talking about books and voila...Clayton the Pig came to life at the Clay County Fair!



Mandie describes the experience: *"We wanted the book to appeal to all ages: adventures and animals for the younger set, things hidden in the pictures ala 'I Spy' for the older kids, and the iconic structures and sights of the Clay County Fair, sure to push the nostalgia button for anyone who has ever enjoyed the Fair. The book includes 42 original watercolors; all of them have been displayed at Arts on Grand in Spencer...when I look at all those paintings on display—and in a children's book—I can't believe I did it!"*

If you'd like to purchase a copy of Clayton Goes to the Fair for your library (\$15.00) you can find it at Arts on Grand (Spencer) The Barn Swallow (Okoboji) Prairie Lights (Iowa City) and online at www.thatfairbook.com. You're also welcome to contact Mandie at her personal email eightbit.gypsy@gmail.com. Both Arla and Mandie are available for speaking engagements, too—a great programming opportunity @ your library!

News Article

Annual Survey Deadline Looming



Wednesday--October 31st

It's nearly the witching hour. Sure, Halloween is top of mind, but so should be the deadline for completing your library's **FY18 Annual Survey**. Scott Dermont sends this important reminder because there are literally hundreds of public libraries that have not yet completed the survey. An especially chilling number because the deadline is **Wednesday October 31st**.

Click the button below for the link to the **FY18 Annual Survey** online. Each library has a unique login and password; an email reminder of login and password was sent in August. If you're unsure of yours, please contact Toni Blair (toni.blair@iowa.gov) or call your District office.

Scott writes: *"... The data you provide helps you and your fellow librarians compare library performance, justify budget requests, and describe the condition of public libraries in Iowa. Your data is also used by local, state, and federal officials to help them make funding and program decisions. Your efforts are important and appreciated!"*

Helpful to the process is a print version of the survey to use as a worksheet before filling out the form online. Also detailed instructions and a page showing changes from last year to this year, all accessed at the same webpage below. Contact Scott Dermont with questions (scott.dermont@iowa.gov / 800-248-4483) or your District office.

There's no trick to it—treat yourself to a good week by finishing up your survey. Or else you'll be haunted by Scott and State Library minions...we know where you live!

[Annual Survey Link](#)



This Week ...

The last webinar in **The Boardroom series** takes place tomorrow **October 30th** (6:00-7:30PM) Tomorrow night's episode is **"Seven Habits of Effective Library Boards."**

For daytime webinars this week from dozens of national education providers, browse this page on the State Library's website <https://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted>



Happy Halloween!

Monday Morning Eye-Opener

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